(a) whether it is a fact that excise duty on cosmetics and toiletry goods has been reduced from 110 per cent in 1992-93 to 50 per cent in 1994-95;

(b) whether it is also a fact that excise duty on cheaper toilet soaps has been increased from 5 per cent to 20 per cent and that on premium toilet soaps produced entirely by multinational companies reduced from 25 per cent to 20 per cent;

(c) whether Government are aware that these fiscal changes have benefited almost entirely the multinational companies and affluent consumers of premium products produced by these companies;

(d) whether Govenment are also aware that these fiscal measures have adversely affected the domestic sector comprising mainly small scale units and the mass consumer in the form of increase in the prices of products and reducing the prices of premium high-priced products produced by multi-national companies and consumed entirely by the affluent; and

(e) what steps Government propose to take to correct these fiscal anomalies resulting in discrimination against small sector, domestic sector and mass consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHR M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY) : (a) The general effective rate of basic excise duty on cosmetics and toiletry preparations was reduced from 105 per cent in the year 1992-93 to 50 per cent in the year 1994-95.

(b) During April 92-Febuary 93, toilet soaps attracted excise duty of 5 per cent, 15 per cent and 25 per cent depending upon their value. Soap manufactued under 'Janata Soap Scheme' attracted 5 per cent duty whereas soap manufactured without the aid of power was fully exempted. From 28.2.93, toilet soap was subjected to a uniform rate of excise-duty of 20 per cent. However, concessional rate of excise duty on soap manufactured under Janata Soap Scheme and nil rate for soap manufactured without aid of power continued. From 1.3.94, excise duty on soap manufactured under Janata Soap Scheme was increased from 5 per cent to 10 per cent. No change in the duty rates has however been made in the bodget for the year 1995-96.

(c) and (d) Excise duty being on *ad valorem* basis, the cheaper varieties would attract less duty as compared to costlier varieties. The soap manufactured without the aid of power are fully exempted from excise duty. Soap manufactured under Janata Soap Scheme attracts 10 per cent duty. Concessional rate of excise duty under general SSI exemption scheme is also available for toilet soaps. The present excise duty structure and rates on toilet soaps takes into account the interest of the domestic industry and the consumers.

(e) In view of (c)and (d) above, does not arise.

गुजरात में करों से प्राप्त राजस्व

4328. श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:
श्री चिमनभाई हरिभाई शुक्ल:

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान सरकार को गुजरात में जिला-वार, आय कर, उत्पाद शुल्क और लघु-बचतों से कुल कितना राजस्व अर्जित हुआ ;

(ख) इस प्रकार अर्जित कुल राजस्व में से कितनी राशि राज्य को लौटाई गई ;

(ग) इस समय गुजरात में कितने आयकर दाता हैं, उनका जिलावार ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(५) वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 में आयकर विभाग द्वारा राज्य मे कितने छापे मारे गये तथा कितने मूल्य की सम्पत्ति जब्त की गई ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम. वी. चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति): (क) इन उद्देश्यों के लिए जिला-वार आकड़े नहीं रखे जाते है । केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा आयकर (निगम कर सहित) और उत्पाद शुल्क के जरिए गुजरात में वर्ष 1994–95 के दौरान कुल 6050.98 करोड़ रु० (अंतिम) का राजस्व एकत्रित किया था । लघु बचत संग्रहण (अप्रैल, 94 से दिसम्बर, 94 तक) 568.68 करोड़ रुपए था ।

(ख) गुजरात सरकार को दिए गए केन्द्रीय कर के हिस्से की राशि 978.63 करोड़ रु० थी जबकि कुल लघु बजत संग्रह पर दीर्घ कालिक ऋण की राशि 626.27 करोड़ रु० थी ।

(ग) दिनांक 28–2–1995 तक गुजरात में आयकर दाताओं की संख्या 9,31,212 थी । जिला-वार आंकडे नहीं रखे जाते है ।

(घ) वर्ष 1993–94 और 1994–95 के दौरान गुजरात में ली गई तलाशियों की संख्या और परिणामस्वरूप जब्त की गई संपत्तियों के मूल्य का ब्यौरा निम्न हैं :

	तलाशियों की संख्या	जब्त की गई सम्पत्तियों का मूल्य
		लाख रु०
1993–94	648	4587.64
1994–95	531	3707.75

Ban on import of fire arms

4329. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on import of Fire Arms like Revolvers, Pistols (Non-prohibited Bore) by individuals in person from abroad; if so the reasons therefor;

(b) by when this ban is going to be lifted and

(c) whether the Ministry propose to allow the individuals to procure such arms from the confiscated stock available with Government for limited eligible categories till ban is lifted; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Import of Fire arms is not permitted to be imported except against a licence by renowed shooters/Rifile Clubs for their own use on the recommendation of the Department of Youth Affais and Sports, Government of India. Review of the Export and Import Policy is an on-going exercise and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

SBI grand scam probe

4330. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SBI grand scam probe: Axe falls on 4 top officers" appearing in the Evening News of the 'Hindustan Times' dated 16-3-95;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY): (a). Yes. Sir.